



## MDAQMD Helps At-Risk Youth Make A "Uturn"

In January, CRE staff helped students create environmentally-themed science fair projects during nine workshops presented as part of the City of Victorville's Uturn Program, which is designed to divert elementary-aged youth from gang involvement by immersing them in productive after school activities. As a participating partner in the program, the District held the workshops at three Victorville elementary schools; Del Rey, Irwin and Sixth Street Preparatory. In addition to meeting Uturn program objectives, the workshops were aimed at increasing student participation in the District's annual Outstanding Environmental Science Project Awards competition, which takes place at schools District-wide each Spring.



MDAQMD Community Relations & Education Specialist Cindi Wray presented Environmental Science Fair Project Workshops at three local schools, to students in the City of Victorville's Uturn Program.

For more information on the Uturn Prevention Program, please contact the City of Victorville's Public Works Department at (760) 955-8813.

## DISTRICT PRESENTS OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE PROJECT AWARDS AT LOCAL SCHOOLS



"Peanut Energy Power" proved to be a winner at the Mojave Vista School Science Fair in Victorville. The project was completed by Jodice Soto, a 4<sup>th</sup> grader who received a 2009 Outstanding Environmental Science Project Award for her project and a job well done!

The MDAQMD once again joined forces with the Mojave Desert Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association, and the Mojave Environmental Education Consortium to present the 2009 "Outstanding Environmental Science Project Awards" at over 20 schools District-wide. Participating schools included Cameron School in Barstow, Hinkley School, Academy of Academic Excellence in Apple Valley, Columbia School in Adelanto and the Hesperia Unified School District event.

The purpose of the program – which is open to students in grades K-12 attending school in

the High Desert portion of San Bernardino County or Blythe – is to promote environmental education in local schools. District staff and MEEC representatives from local businesses and organizations participated in judging and recognizing local students who developed outstanding environmentally-themed projects for competition in local or regional school science fairs.



Pictured: 4<sup>th</sup> grader Jackson Bridges, a proud recipient of the 2009 Outstanding Environmental Science Project Award, at the Apple Valley Unified School District Science Fair on March 13.